

TO: C/OTG

FROM: [REDACTED]

#115

SUBJECT: BOC CRITIQUE

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1. Rather than spend several pages pontificating on every aspect of the BOC I am going to restrict myself to those areas I felt needed improvement. This is not to say however, that my overall view was negative or that I found shortcomings in all aspects of the course.

2. My first point of criticism is the endless hours of lectures in Arena B. On numerous occasions we were required to spend from three to eight hours a day listening to lectures that for the most part seemed like time fillers. Any knowledgeable public speaker knows the tension span for any presentation regardless of the subject or how interestingly presented does not exceed two hours. Unfortunately for both students and instructors as well as guest lecturers many speakers came before us after someone else had spent one or two hours lecturing on other subjects. I submit a sleeping audience as a barometer of my contention.

3. When various instructors spoke to the class it frequently appeared they were required to keep us the full hour or two regardless of whether the subject warranted this coverage. I think this inhibited questions, and as a rule student responses could be more easily provoked had the lecture been cut in half with the balance of the allotted time set aside for students to expand upon the basics presented. Another possibility might be to eliminate some of the lectures and replace them with one or two on base meetings.

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4. A second point I would like to make is in the area of agents we meet in the various problems. [REDACTED] and the [REDACTED] are all rare operational experiences. Most CO's encounter the low to medium level individual with dubious access and a lesser willingness to cooperate and report frequently or accurately. At no time did we as a class have exposure to an agent who was marginal and whose reporting was likewise. With [REDACTED] there was never a doubt on their importance or the quality of their reporting. In summary then I think it would be more pertinent and more relevant to the experiences most students will encounter in their career to have these marginal assets appear in the BOC.

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5. While guest lecturers are on my mind I would like to take time out to single out a few whom I considered quite a waste. In particular I am referring to M [REDACTED] and his verbose sales job on how [REDACTED] like the Marine Corps builds men. The inference was that if we wanted a challenge, wanted to work hard, be the best etc that [REDACTED] was where the action was. All other area divisions and DDP endeavors were down graded to a weak second place with [REDACTED] and the DDP through [REDACTED] Division struggling to overcome the forces of evil. [REDACTED] does have an important place in the DDP but not proportionate to the time spent in this class.

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6. In my mind the most absurd aspect of this entire course was [REDACTED] What can I say, just thinking about it makes me sick.

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7. In respect to the so called comprehensive final problem I found this to be quite disappointing. The [REDACTED] phase of this exercise was excellent. The recruitment, the photography and technical expertise we were expected to display was all worthwhile. However, the [REDACTED] phase leaves quite a bit to be desired. In essence this phase consisted of a few quick meetings and several surveillance activities. My team as a whole was never taxed and found as a whole the [REDACTED] trip to be a vacation. In fact the whole problem could have just as well been conducted here on base. Its ironic that the course coordinator couldn't swing a few dollars for a couple of bottles of liquor for [REDACTED] yet spent so much for this final problem.

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8. My final substantive criticism is on the lack of tradecraft taught during the course. At the beginning of the course we were told we would have frequent tradecraft sessions in the evenings to work out problems we might have in finding and employing dead drops, time drops, brush pass sites etc. We were told what they were but nothing more.

9. My only other criticisms are administrative. First I would like to see night meetings incorporated into the various problems, which would fit into the pattern CO's employ overseas. Finally for the benefit of the students I think it would be wise to start classes at 10:AM on Mondays which would permit Monday morning travel. As presently constructed our Sundays are lost because by early Sunday afternoon preparations for return had to be formulated to avoid late evening trips. Maybe some of the lectures could be eliminated and early Monday mornings left open.

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10. So as not to end on such a pessimistic note I would like to point out that many lecturers were excellent and there topics stimulating. I considered the following the best speakers: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] n the local staff I felt [REDACTED] were the most helpful, the most professional and finally the best instructors. Finally I would like to commend [REDACTED] for their assistance and the lessons I have been able to learn from their personal experiences.

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11. One after thought is included as a suggestion. Since most of the students are fairly new employees to the Agency I think it would be beneficial for the students of future classes to be exposed to former students who since completion of this course have served one tour overseas and could relay to us their feelings as to whether or not their training benefited or failed to assist them in that tour.